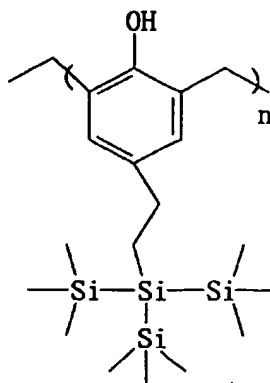


REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated June 14, 2006, the Examiner finalized the rejections of claims 2-13, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP 2002-107938 to Hatakeyama et al. (hereinafter "Hatakeyama") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,420,088 to Angelopoulos et al. (hereinafter "Angelopoulos") and U.S. Patent No. 6,767,689 to Pavelcheck et al. (hereinafter "Pavelcheck").

In response, Applicants have hereby cancelled claims 2, 7-8 and 11 and amended claims 3 (from which claims 4-6, 9-10 and 12 depend) and 30 to positively recite that the silicon polymer is a novolacsilane polymer comprising phenolic groups on the main chain and cluster silane groups on the side chains. Applicants have further amended claims 13 and 31 to positively recite a novolacsilane polymer having the structure of:



Support for such claim amendments can be found in the instant specification on page 6, first full paragraph (disclosing polymeric novolacsilane comprising phenolic groups on the main chain and cluster silane groups on the side chains, which can be advantageously cast

from a regular resist solvent to form films), and page 16, second full paragraph (disclosing a specific novolacsilane structure and the method for forming the same).

The primary reference Hatakeyama only discloses silane polymers with substituted phenolic groups on the side chains, instead of on the main chain, of such polymers (see Hatakeyama, paragraphs [0010] and [0011] and formula (9)).

Nothing in Hatakeyama teaches or suggests a novolacsilane polymer comprising phenolic groups on the main chain and cluster silane groups on the side chains, as positively recited by amended claims 3-6, 9-10, 12 and 30 of the present application, much less a novolacsilane polymer having the specific structure as positively recited by amended claims 13 and 31 of the present application.

The secondary references, Angelopoulos and Pavelcheck, do not disclose any novolacsilane polymers and therefore do not remedy the above-described deficiency of Hatakeyama.

In summary, amended claims 3-6, 9-10, 12-13 and 30-31 of the present application patentably distinguish over the cited references, Hatakeyama, Angelopoulos and Pavelcheck.

Correspondingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider, and upon reconsideration to withdraw, the rejections of claims 3-6, 9-10, 12-13 and 30-31 and to issue a Notice of Allowance in Applicants' favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Yongzhi Yang
Registration No. 56,310

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
516-742-4343

MY:vh